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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: K. KAKI et al.
Serial No.: 10/784,995
Filed: February 25, 2004
Title: SEMICONDUCTOR STORAGE APPARATUS IN WHICH
DIFFERENT ERASE COMMANDS ARE SEQUENTIALLY SENT
TO A PLURALTY OF NONVOLATILE SEMICONDUCTOR
MEMORIES
Group: 2189
Examiner: INOA, Midys
Confirmation No.: 9779

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Mail Stop: AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Jan. 30, 2006

Sir:

Reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

This Response is in reply to the Final Office Action dated September 21, 2005, noting the timely filing of a Notice of Appeal and Petition for Extension of Time on January 23, 2006. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the points raised in the Office Action for the reasons set forth below.

At the outset, reconsideration and examination of claim 17 is respectfully requested. In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, it is stated that claim 17 is directed to an independent and distinct invention from the invention originally claimed. As evidence of this, it is noted that claim 17 includes limitations directed to status polling operation not found in the original claims. With regard to this, it is noted that claim 17 is dependent on claim 16, and , as such, is directed to a refinement of the